

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—HUSON SHINGLE.

LUCY HUSON'S NEW YORK THEATRE, Nos. 728 and 730 Broadway.—THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING.—THE PRISONER OF WAR.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.—THE BALLOON WEDDING.—THE WIDOW'S VICTIM.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—SINGING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE FEMALE CLERK IN WASHINGTON.

GEORGE CHRIST'S MINSTRELS.—THE OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELS, BALLOON, MUSICAL GEMS, &c.—AT THE FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.—Mechanics' Hall, 423 Broadway.—DAY AFTER THE WEDDING.—THE PRISONER OF WAR.—THE BALLOON WEDDING.—THE WIDOW'S VICTIM.

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—EPIPHANY MINSTRELS.—BALLOON, MUSICAL GEMS, &c.—AT THE FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.

NEW YORK MUSICAL AND ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

LECTURE BY JAMES T. BRADY.—Before the Bloomington Catholic Association, 781 Eighth avenue.—Sonnets of Dante.

New York, Tuesday, January 23, 1866.

THE NEWS.

CONGRESS.

Yesterday's Congressional proceedings were very interesting. In the Senate the first report from the Joint Reconstruction Committee was submitted, consisting of a proposed constitutional amendment, similar to others heretofore suggested in the House of Representatives, to have Congressional representation on the entire number of population, excepting such persons as are by State laws denied the voting privilege on account of race or color. A petition was presented from the Boston Board of Trade, asking the passage of an act suspending the operations of the stay laws of the Southern States a sufficient length of time to enable Boston merchants to enforce their demands for debts due them in the South on the backing out of the rebellion. A petition of the same character from the Chamber of Commerce of this city was presented some days ago. Senator Clark called up the bill prescribing qualifications for jurors, providing that merely the formation or expression of opinion, founded on newspaper reports, shall not disqualify for jury duty, and stipulating for the removal from any District or Circuit Court of the United States to the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia of trials for crimes the penalty of which may be death. This bill, the latter section of which is designed to cover the case of Jeff. Davis, was objected to as *ex post facto* legislation by Mr. Sumner, Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, concurring with him, and it was laid over till Thursday. The resolution to refer all documents relating to the representation of the ex-slaves to the Reconstruction Committee was adopted. The bill changing the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau was then taken up, and its consideration occupied the remainder of the open session. After speeches by several Senators, the proposed amendment of Mr. Cowan, to exclude Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri from the Bureau's jurisdiction, was defeated by thirty-three yeas to eleven nays. Several other amendments were proposed and rejected. An amendment restricting the Bureau's military jurisdiction to the exercise of the officers belonging to it was adopted. Without concluding action on the bill, the Senate went into executive session, and confirmed several Presidential nominations, including those for foreign Ministers of Mr. Bigelow to France; Mr. George Harrington, of Georgia, to Switzerland; General Kilpatrick to Chile; George H. Y. Adams, of Kentucky, to Denmark; and Joseph A. Wright, of Indiana, to Prussia. On the opening of the doors the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives a large number of matters were introduced and referred, including bills providing for the defence of our northern frontier, to regulate the elective franchise in the District of Columbia by requiring a residence of one year previous to election, to prevent counterfeiting of national currency, for the establishment of a new navy yard on Delaware river, giving pensions to certain soldiers of the war of 1812, granting bounties to the volunteers of 1861 and 1862, providing for payment of national soldiers kept in prison by the rebels, requiring every person on taking office under the national government to subscribe to the oath of allegiance, for the construction of a ship canal around Niagara Falls, and for the admission of Colorado as a State. Mr. Stevens offered, but subsequently withdrew, owing to absence of an opportunity to explain it, a proposition that our government loan to the republic of Mexico a sum sufficient to prevent the establishment of a Mexican monarchy. Resolutions calling for the trial of Jeff. Davis and other rebels by court martial were introduced and referred to the Judiciary Committee. There was also introduced and referred to this committee a proposed constitutional amendment to give to the office of President becoming vacant by death or resignation, to be in case of necessity of the Supreme Court Judges. The same committee were instructed to report whether further legislation is necessary to compel employees of the government in the Southern States to take the test oath. The Military Committee were directed to report on the expediency of providing for the payment of national soldiers from the date of their discharge until they were relieved of duty. The Ways and Means Committee were instructed to consider the propriety of levying the internal revenue tax on tobacco on the raw leaf and of reducing the tax on common cigars and manufactured tobacco. Mr. Gridley, democrat, of Kentucky, introduced resolutions favoring the immediate admission of the Southern Representatives, which were referred to the Reconstruction Committee. President Johnson was requested to communicate any official information he may have regarding proceedings of the Congress of Colombia in honor of President Juarez, of Mexico. A resolution was introduced commending the refusal of President Johnson to accept the gift of a carriage and horses offered by him by New York merchants, but, after some discussion, was laid over. The Reconstruction Committee presented the same report submitted to the Senate, and a long and earnest debate followed on the proposed constitutional amendment which it contains. Mr. Stevens desiring to press an immediate vote on the question, which the democratic members strongly opposed. Finally the report was ordered to be printed, and was made the special order for to-day, after which the House adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Both branches of our State Legislature met at seven o'clock last evening. In the Senate the preliminary report of the State Commission Committee. The bill empowering the managers of the Five Points House of Industry to bind out children, with their consent, was ordered to a third reading.

In the Assembly the report of the New York Prison Association was presented. Bills were introduced to change the name of the New York Free Academy to New York Free College, to revive and extend the charter of the New York Female Assistance Society, and to authorize the towns on the line of the route to subscribe to and hold stock in the New York and Oswego Midland Railroad Company. Mr. Lulligton introduced a series of resolutions, which were adopted, in relation to our quarantine arrangements, proposing that the Governor be requested to ask the national government, in view of the threatened approach of the cholera, to place gratuitously and temporarily at the disposal of the Quarantine Commissioners such hulks or vessels as may be needed for quarantine purposes, until some other provision is made by law; that our representatives in Congress be requested to urge the passage of an act appropriating such a sum as, with a like sum as may hereafter be appropriated by the State, will be sufficient for the erection on some isolated location in the bay of hospitals for the reception of the sick, and warehouses for the storage of goods and merchandise arriving in the port of New York in vessels subject to quarantine, and that the Commissioners of Quarantine be directed to report at an early day to the House an estimate for the construction of suitable accommodations for a permanent quarantine establishment, and that a resolution was also adopted calling upon the Board of Public Instruction to report

what amendments are necessary to be made in our present school laws to secure more effectually the education of every child in the State.

MEXICO.

Despatches from Brownsville, Texas, of the 16th inst. give later and more satisfactory details of the capture of the Mexican imperialists, on the 5th, of the town of Bagdad, and indicate the existence of rather delicate relations between the United States and imperial commanders on the respective sides of the Rio Grande.

The capturing party numbered about one hundred and twenty, and consisted principally of soldiers of the One Hundred and Eighteenth United States colored regiment, and they made prisoners of over four hundred imperialists, and took four pieces of artillery. They also attempted to get possession of the imperial gunboat Antonio; but in this they failed, there being a few killed and wounded in the engagement. The captors were shelled by a French war vessel on the day following their occupation of the town, but were not driven out. They however left voluntarily soon after, having previously plundered the place, and sent their spoil over into Texas, where some of it was seized by General Weitzel and returned to its owners. General Weitzel also sent a guard of men to Bagdad to preserve order. General Mejia, the imperial commander at Matamoros, has commenced new earthworks and the mounting of additional guns, and has sent a rather threatening letter to General Weitzel, on his side is putting Brownsville in a condition to be prepared for whatever may occur.

By the steamship Liberty, which arrived at this port yesterday from Havana, we have Vera Cruz advices to the 13th inst. They show, among other things, a deplorable condition of the imperialists at the Pacific port of Acapulco, the republican chief Alvarez having completely hemmed in and cut off from supplies. Besides this, fever was prevailing among them to a fearful extent, and many of the troops were deserting to the republicans. In the interior fighting is still going on, the imperialists claiming additional victories; but the spirit and energy of the republicans seem to be not in the least relaxed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The European mails, with our newspaper files, by the Asia reached Boston from Halifax yesterday afternoon, and were despatched for this city in the evening. They are due at eight o'clock this morning. The news is dated to the 7th of January. Its chief points were embraced in our telegraphic summary from Halifax, published in the Herald on Sunday.

Additional particulars relative to the rumors noticed in the Herald of Sunday and yesterday, of prospects of an early termination of the war between Paraguay and the allies, are given in our Rio Janeiro correspondence published to-day. A Paraguayan steamer, having on board a messenger from President Lopez, with despatches for President Mitre, of the Argentine Confederation, arrived at Corrientes, on the Paraná, on the 22d of November last, and delivered the documents in his charge to the chief naval officer of the allies. Though nothing positive concerning the nature of this mission had been learned, it was generally thought at first to mean peace; but it seems not to have been allowed to cause any cessation of allied operations. The Brazilians, it appears, have no great faith in the constancy of their Argentine and Uruguayan allies, who it is suspected are liable at any time to turn around and espouse the cause of Paraguay. The Brazilian government is therefore pushing forward to the scene of hostilities, with all possible rapidity, all available troops and naval vessels, so as to be prepared even for desertion by its present friends. Lopez continued his efforts to resist the advance up the Paraguay river to his capital of the allies; but he was deficient in proper sailors to man his vessels. It is said that he has imprisoned the Spanish and Argentine consuls, for what cause is not known.

Colonel Whittlesy, Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for North Carolina, reports that the negroes generally of that State have made contracts for the year and are laboring industriously; that the holidays passed without any insurrectionary demonstrations on their part, and that their minds have become disabused of the erroneous impression that government intends to distribute lands among them.

The temperature yesterday in this city and vicinity remained cold, but did not approach the severity of two weeks ago. The sky continued unclouded, and the atmosphere pure and invigorating, though sharp, throughout the day.

There was excellent skating on all the ponds yesterday. The Park was splendidly attended, as was the Fifth Avenue pond. There will be a grand carnival on the latter pond to-day. Last evening there was a very successful one on Sylvan Lake, Hoboken.

California Fenians have telegraphed to President Roberts their repudiation of the late O'Mahony Congress in this city. The twelve Senators issued an address to the circles before the adjournment of their late meeting in this city. It is brief, and gives interesting facts regarding the contemplated military movement under General Sweeney and the Senatorial party. It is expected to be the winding up manifesto of the present campaign.

An Irish poet is about to produce a poem or "Moralistic Hymn"—"Sweeney's Address to the Fenian Men"—to be sung by the Fenians around their camp fire. We give a remarkable stanza of this revolutionary lyric.

The Board of Aldermen held a session yesterday afternoon and transacted a large amount of business. A petition was received from residents of Eighty-sixth street, requesting the reopening of the Eighty-sixth street ferry, which was closed on the 10th inst. A protest was received from the Citizens' Association against the payment to City Inspector Boole of \$5,000 for expenses incurred in the Albany investigations. Communications were received from the City Inspector containing appointments of Health Wardens and Assistants for the Seventh and Nineteenth wards, which were confirmed. The City Inspector's annual report for 1865 was also received. It gives the number of recorded births in the city during the year as 5,722, the marriages as 2,733 and the deaths as 24,333. The publication of ten thousand copies of "Valentine's Manual" for the year was authorized.

The Board of Councilmen held a short session yesterday, and concurred in the resolutions adopted by the Aldermen requesting the New York Members of Congress to endeavor to effect the passage of the bill now before the House in relation to a new General Post Office in this city. The President announced the Committee of Arrangements on the Celebration of Washington's Birthday, whereupon Mr. Pullman said he did not wish to serve on any committee with a gentleman who sold his birthday for a mess of pottage. On motion Mr. Pullman was excused from serving upon the committee. Resolutions were adopted directing the Street Commissioner to repair Tompkins park and to have the piers on the North and East rivers renumbered. The Comptroller sent a communication received from the Corporation Council, stating that the appropriation of \$1,000,000 was insufficient for opening streets, and that fifty thousand dollars would be required for that purpose. The paper was referred. The President announced the standing committees for the year.

A meeting of the Health Commissioners was held yesterday, at which the probability of the cholera was discussed, and the Resident Physician, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Board, was appointed to proceed to Albany and call the attention of the Governor and Legislature to the matter. A resolution was also adopted inviting the Mayor and Health Officer of Brooklyn to attend a meeting of the Board to be called for the purpose of taking steps to procure a proper place for the purification of vessels arriving at this port.

The British bark Diadem, under the command of Captain Hannam, which sailed from this port on the 5th inst. for Liverpool, with a cargo of petroleum, spirits of turpentine and staves, was captured during the gale of the 9th inst., and the captain's wife and two boys belonging to the crew were drowned. Captain Hannam and four of the crew afterwards died from exposure. The survivors arrived in this city yesterday.

The failure of the Columbian Marine Insurance Company, one of the oldest of the joint stock marine insurance institutions of this city, was announced yesterday. Its liabilities are estimated to reach six million dollars; but Mr. Phelps, the agent of the company, says that the assets will be sufficient to meet all these and leave a handsome surplus. It was found necessary to close up the concern in consequence of recent very heavy losses, its payments on account of Anglo-Ireland practical deductions alone, it is said, aggregating over a million dollars.

The libel case in which Mr. A. T. Stewart, the well known dry goods merchant, is the complainant, and Messrs. Merrill & McKeller are the defendants, was brought up before Judge Dowling, at the Tombs Police Court, yesterday afternoon. The only persons examined were Mr. A. T. Stewart, the complainant, Mr. Wm. G. Lambert and Mr. Courtland Palmer, merchants of this city. Their testimony went to show that, from the reading of the article in question, they were led to believe that Mr. Stewart was the person referred to. The case was ruled without argument. Judge Dowling said

that if he desired to hear any argument on the matter he would give twenty-four hours' notice to the respective counsel.

In the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, before Judge Shipman and a jury, William Kane withdrew his plea of not guilty, and pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with having uttered forged vouchers against the United States, and was remanded for sentence. The trial of William Chase Barney, Reginald Chaney and Benjamin J. Fabian, who are accused of having uttered false and forged bonds, with intent to evade payment of tax on about three hundred barrels of alcohol, was postponed till the 30th inst. In reference to an action in which Collector Draper is sued for recovery of duties alleged to have been illegally levied, Judge Shipman said that in a case in which the government had an interest he would only recognize the District Attorney as the person responsible for the conduct of the prosecution, and that if other counsel were to be engaged it must be with the District Attorney's approval and by his consent.

The case of Captain Peabody, who is accused of having ill-treated seamen and passengers on board the ship Neptune, was again resumed yesterday in the United States Commissioner's office, before Commissioner Stillwell. Captain Peabody's counsel, in a lengthy address, contended that the evidence was not such as should induce the Court to hold his client for trial. He said it was owing to the firmness and resolution of the captain that the ship, which got disabled at sea, greatly to the danger of the passengers' lives, was ever brought safely into port. At the conclusion of this argument the Commissioner expressed the opinion that the defense should be entered upon. Evidence for the captain will be given to-day.

Judge Sutherland has granted an attachment against the husband in the case of Ellen A. Price against Joel I. Price, to show cause why alimony has not been paid as ordered to a legal decree. The defense in this motion was, that the wife being deceased, she did not require alimony; but the lady herself was brought into court and bodily refuted the assertion.

The General Term of the Supreme Court will meet for decisions on the 3d of February.

Charles Abernethy and Seth B. Hunt brought suits yesterday in the Court of Common Pleas, before Judge Cardozo, against the Society of the Church of the Puritans, to test the right of the latter to sell pews owned in deed by the former for alleged non-payment of taxes. The litigation seems to be a sequel to the political excitement that prevailed in that church a few years ago owing to the peculiar doctrines fomented from the pulpit by its pastor.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Samuel E. Vance, charged with cutting John H. Payner with a razor, on the 2d of September, pleaded guilty to an assault with a dangerous weapon. John G. Leonard was convicted of an assault and battery on Louis Meyer, of 37½ Bowery, the complainant alleging that he discharged a pistol at him. Emil Geroline, indicted for cutting Charles Westfield in the leg with a knife, on the 28th of October, in North William street, was convicted of an assault. These prisoners were remanded for sentence.

Charles H. Hargrave, charged with firing a pistol at Martin Harrowbut, 346 Greenwich street, on the 30th of November, was acquitted, it having been shown that he had no intention to shoot him. Robert Kelly, indicted for cutting Thomas White in the ear with a knife, was also acquitted, as he acted in self-defense. Harvey McLean, colored, made a charge of robbery against Daniel and Solomon Johnson; but the evidence was so slight that the jury returned a verdict of acquittal without leaving their seats.

The trial of Francisco Gona Salvador, alias Pollicar, alias Martinez, was continued yesterday in the Kings county Court of Oyer and Terminer. The entire day was taken up in receiving testimony for the prosecution. Mr. Mills, Dr. Willett, Dr. Cochran, Dr. Ayres, Spanish Vice Consul De Arce, Modam Flores, Ellen Sullivan and Frank Voh gave their testimony. The counsel for the prisoner tried, but in vain, to shake the evidence of the last witness. His testimony is important. The trial will be continued to-day.

Before the trial of Pellicor commenced Charles Schmidt was arraigned to plead to the indictment charging him with the death of Herman Weichner. He pleaded not guilty, and counsel was assigned him.

The following were among yesterday's commitments by the city police justices.—James O. Craig, a youth of eighteen, lately employed in the office of the New Haven Steamboat Company, 21 Park street, on charge of having appropriated to his own use the proceeds of a check for one thousand dollars, with which he was entrusted by the agent of the company to get cashed, and five hundred dollars of which he, in company with a companion, had spent in riotous living, the remainder being recovered; Richard Wilson, a boot-black, aged seventeen, on a charge of burglariously entering and robbing the cigar store 187 Park street; William Smith, Charles Nelson and Charles Parker, employees of the steamship Champion, on charge of stealing and secreting, during a late voyage from this port, considerable portions of her cargo, some of which was recovered, and John Townsend and Charles Birge, on complaint of passing on Eighth avenue shopkeepers counterfeit ten dollar bills on the Fall River Bank.

John McDonald, the person who was seriously injured during a fight in Brooklyn last Tuesday night, died at his residence in that city yesterday morning from the effects of his injuries. Four men, charged with having been implicated in the affair, are now under arrest, awaiting the result of the Coroner's investigation.

The last uprising of their countrymen was celebrated last night by the Polish residing in this city at a place in East street, where addresses were delivered in the Polish and Russian languages, and a resolution was adopted to form a revolutionary club.

A national soldiers' and sailors' convention assembled in Washington yesterday, about one hundred delegates from various States being present. A permanent organization was effected, and other business was transacted. General Logan was chosen President.

The City Inspector reports that there have been 434 deaths in this city during the past week, a decrease of six as compared with the mortality of the previous week, and 34 less than during the corresponding week last year. Of the deaths recorded 193 were of children less than five years of age. The diseases were:—Consumption, 64; infantile convulsions, 33; marasmus, 18; peritonitis, 21; scarlatina, 20; croup, 16; typhus fever, 12; diphtheria, 14, and from external causes, 35. The interments in the Potter's Field were 37, and there were 61 deaths in the different public institutions.

The stock market was firm yesterday morning, but closed heavy. Governments were dull. Gold closed at 128½ a 128½.

There was but a moderate degree of activity in any department of trade yesterday, and as a general thing the markets were dull and heavy. Groceries were dull, but without essential change. Cotton was dull and heavy. Petroleum was dull and nominal. On Change flour was again dull and lower. Wheat was nominally lower. Corn was entirely nominal. Pork was lower. Lard was heavy. Whiskey was steady.

OUR NEW NOBILITY.—It would seem that this republic is about to attempt a rivalry with the old monarchies in the establishment of a new nobility, based not upon hereditary titles, as in the Old World, but upon what the individuals are supposed to represent on the books of the Internal Revenue assessor. A committee of the New York Chamber of Commerce waited upon the President the other day, as our Washington correspondent relates, and sent in their cards, with the number of millions they were worth appended to their names; for example, "F. S. Winston, President Mutual Insurance Company, representing seventeen millions dollars; R. H. Burdell, President of the Erie Railroad, representing sixty millions; H. B. Claflin, the largest merchant on the globe." This immediately suggests the idea of novel titles of nobility. Instead of using the prefix of "Lord" or "Sir," or the affix of "Baronet," "K. C. B.," and so forth, we might have inscribed on the cards of our new nobility, W. B. Astor, forty millions; John Jones, seventeen millions; Augustus Adolphus Brown, ten millions; Theophilus Robinson, twelve millions; Hieronymus Dry Goods, the largest merchant on the globe, and so on.

Our new nobility, who have visited the White House in connection with the New York collectorship, evidently agree with Burns in the idea that

The rank is but the guinea's stamp;
The man's the gold for 'at;

and 'at, and 'at; and especially for the collectorship of the port of New York.

The Meeting of the French Chambers.—Waiting in Washington for the Speech of Napoleon on Mexico.

From our European news by the Adela it appears that the French Senate and Corps Legislatif had been summoned to assemble on the 22d January (yesterday) and that the opposition deputies had held a meeting at which "they had decided to direct their efforts chiefly to the Mexican question." At the same time, from information received from Washington, we infer that the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives will withhold any report or recommendation in reference to this Mexican controversy, until they shall have learned what the Emperor Napoleon has had to say to his Legislative Chambers upon this very important subject. It is generally believed that his speech will embrace the declaration of a purpose to abandon his imperial Mexican enterprise, and an explanation to cover his retreat satisfactory to France. At all events, we have reason to anticipate that the receipt of the Emperor's speech will be promptly followed by such action on the part of Congress as the occasion may seem to demand.

That the Emperor's speech will define a line of policy on his part satisfactory to our government we have reason to believe from a late significant leading article in the official *Moniteur*, and from similar articles from other leading French journals and periodicals. The purpose of Napoleon thus suggested we find very broadly expressed in the Paris correspondence of the *Independence Belge* of December 31, in which the writer says:—"We expect soon to see in the journals which are the recipients of governmental inspiration, a note which may permit us to see, in no very distant future, the evacuation of Mexico." From the same authority it further appears that "the highest circles" in Paris "are becoming enlightened as to Mexico and very indignant as to Maximilian, who is showing himself at the same time both incapable and ungrateful to France, to whom he owes everything;" and that "it is even regretted that in the framing of his government precedents rendered all relations with Juarez impossible." The French journals, it further appears, are quite disgusted with the indifference and ingratitude of Austria, the Power most directly interested in Maximilian's adventure, but a Power which has given nothing towards his support except an occasional "journalistic paragraph."

All these are but straws, and yet they are sufficient to mark a decided change in the wind, and this change in reference to Mexico may involve a change of Louis Napoleon's policy in reference to Italy, the Pope, the Papal States, Venice and Austria. It is evident that Austria regards with suspicion this Mexican present to Maximilian, that Napoleon begins to feel that it is a bad investment, and that Maximilian is doing all that he can to turn the tables upon his master, like the mock Prince of Como, with his extravagant presents and expenditures. But, in addition to all these embarrassments, the Emperor of the French is called upon to determine how his experimental empire in Mexico can be sustained when his recognition in any shape or form at Washington has been officially pronounced "impracticable." We cannot, therefore, resist the conclusion that, as Napoleon at Villa Franca made peace when the Italian war began to assume proportions beyond his original estimates, so now with his Mexican scheme, involving him in unlooked for complications, he will gracefully withdraw. We dare say, indeed, that the two houses of Congress, in waiting for his anticipated announcement of this purpose, are doing so upon official information.

Meantime the liberals in Mexico, having reduced their predatory warfare to something like a regular system of operations, continue to give Maximilian abundant employment. If he advances his troops to the extremities of his empire the liberals are up in the interior, and playing the mischief even in the suburbs of his capital; as he withdraws his forces from the borders into the interior again, the liberals reoccupy the country behind him. In fact, his authority in Mexico is limited to the places and roads occupied and commanded by his soldiers, and every exposed detachment is liable at any moment to be cut off by the invisible but omnipresent Juarists. The Mexicans, through half a dozen generations, have been trained to this business. It is their normal condition. They have never known anything else. Thus, against twenty or thirty thousand French, Belgians, Turcos, and native renegades, the liberals can keep Maximilian busy for twenty years to come. The savage alternative of their extermination only makes the matter worse for Maximilian. Two hundred of his Belgians, taken prisoners, have protested against this barbarous system of revenge. They say that "they came to Mexico in peace in order to act as a guard to our prince, but whom you (Maximilian) have forced to fight against principles identical with our own;" and that, had the liberals followed the law of retaliation, their lives would have been sacrificed. "Breuer," in behalf of himself and fellow Belgian prisoners, in a remonstrance "to the representatives of the Belgian nation," published in a liberal paper in the central State of Michoacan, calls upon them to intervene, and says that the Belgian Legion desire to return home, that they have had enough of "this iniquitous war," and he calls "in the name of Belgium, whose honest confidence has been abused."

If such are the sentiments of Maximilian's originally devoted Belgians, it may be imagined that his French soldiers are not over-anxious to remain in his somewhat too dangerous and unprofitable service, and it may be supposed, too, that, apart from the great difficulty of the Monroe doctrine, the Emperor of the French has had enough of his German Emperor and empire over the Mexicans. The empire is a failure, and we expect in Napoleon's speech, which was doubtless delivered yesterday to his legislative bodies, the announcement that the experiment is to be abandoned, with certain indemnities to France. Regarding Louis Napoleon as a sagacious statesman, we can, as matters now stand, reach no other conclusion.

BOSTON AND NEW YORK GRATITUDE.—We have received at this office a contribution of two dollars for the two pilots who rescued the crew and passengers of the ship Mary A. Boardman in our harbor on one of the coldest mornings of this season. We perceive that there has been a subscription amounting to eighteen thousand dollars donated in Boston for the captain of the ship *Gratitude*, who rescued the passengers and crew of the *Fredonia*, which was wrecked off that coast a short time ago. Bothof these were British vessels. The *Fredonia*, however, was bound to New York with her passengers, and yet in Boston people contributed so liberally to reward the British captain's, while in the case of the wreck of the *Boardman* in the waters of New York harbor, the extent of the contribution to the two pilots who risked their lives to save the sufferers, who must have inevitably perished but for their gallantry, is one dollar a head, which has been sent to—about six cents for the life of every person saved.

We observe that some members of the New York Chamber of Commerce who visited President Johnson last week, represented themselves as worth seventeen millions of dollars; and we do not perceive that either the Chamber or the Board of Underwriters, or any other body representing the commercial interests of this community, has done anything towards rewarding these two brave New York pilots for the fearful risk they ran in the cause of humanity. They ought to get ten thousand dollars apiece, and they have received only one dollar. We boast a great deal about our supremacy as a commercial metropolis; but here is a case in which our merchants leave themselves open to the charge of positive meanness. They flatter before the world their wealth as counted by millions, and yet they take no notice of these brave fellows who exposed their lives to rescue the crew and passengers of a ship almost within sight of the metropolis itself. We hope that this stigma will not be permitted to rest upon the reputation of our representative commercial bodies, but that something will be done to mark the appreciation in which the disinterested services of the New York pilots in this case are held.

Siam, India, China and Japan.—Interesting News from the East.

The intelligence from the East, which we published yesterday in the letter of our Bangkok correspondent and our extracts from Asiatic papers, was of unusual interest. Our correspondent shows that a vast field for American enterprise is open in Siam. The country exports rice, sugar, pepper, horns, hides and other articles, and imports almost all its luxuries and comforts. A good market for all sorts of muslins, cloths, hardware, machinery, arms, crockery, jewelry and miscellaneous articles exists there, and if properly developed will prove very profitable. The imports have doubled in amount since 1859; but on account of our war the English have had a monopoly of the trade and its benefits. Before the war the tonnage of our vessels engaged in commerce with Siam was within four thousand tons of the English tonnage; but the rebellion, encouraged by English merchants, drove us out of the business altogether. As the time is approaching for a revision of the treaty between this government and the Siamese, our correspondent calls the attention of our commercial classes to the important interests involved, and suggests that an embassy of high character should be sent to see that our commercial intercourse is put upon an equal footing with that of England and of Russia. His letter is exceedingly valuable to those concerned in commerce and manufactures, and we hope that it will lead to some practical and judicious action in the matter.

From India we learn that the convention between England and Turkey relative to the overland telegraph has been signed at Constantinople. Thus, while the Latin race, under the patronage of the Emperor Napoleon, is making unsuccessful efforts to establish a German prince upon the ruins of a Mexican republic, the Anglo-Saxon race is pushing those inevitable blessings—the telegraph and the railroad—into the remotest parts of the earth. In such enterprises the Russians cordially join, and that government has recently placed a war steamer at the service of the Collins Company, and has issued special instructions to the Russian authorities to render the company every possible assistance. In the same budget comes the intelligence that Sir Rutherford Alcock, the English Ambassador, has consented to ask permission from the Emperor of China for the laying of a railroad from Canton to Peking. This will entirely revolutionize the Celestials, and do more to civilize them than a dozen wars or a million missionaries. A railroad is now in actual operation in Turkey, and our correspondent there recently sent us a graphic description of its route. More singular still, a street railroad is being built at Calcutta, and the cars for it were manufactured in this city, of the American pattern, and inscribed in the Hindostanee language, but in the American style. Japan sympathizes in these new movements, though in a very limited degree; but the opening of two new ports on the terms of the existing tariff, although effected by the display of a strong English and French force, proves that the idea of Oriental exclusiveness is being rapidly dissipated. In a word, all through the East the indications of a magnificent change for the better are readily observable; and as this country recovers from the natural exhaustion of a long and gigantic war, and takes a more active part in Asiatic enterprises, the developments will be most extraordinary. This is another argument, if any be needed, for the immediate pacification and reorganization of the country upon President Johnson's plan. We have just lost four years of commercial progress by the war, and although we have gained compensating advantages, still we cannot now afford to waste valuable time by keeping half of the nation out of the Union to gratify radical theorists and fanatical politicians.

Has Our Mercantile Marine Actually Declined?

The subject of the apparent decline in the American mercantile marine is attracting the attention of Congress and the commercial community. The Secretary of the Treasury has submitted to Congress a statement that shipping to the amount of nine hundred thousand tons has disappeared from our lists during the past five years, from all causes; eight hundred thousand tons transferred to foreign owners, and about one hundred and ten thousand tons destroyed by rebel cruisers. The aggregate amount of American tonnage before the war was, in round numbers, five millions of tons, showing that about one-fifth of our entire commerce has passed from the protection of the American flag within the prescribed time. Referring to the number that preferred a foreign to the American flag during the war, the Secretary says, "the owners 'transferred their vessels with' a full knowledge of the sacrifices they incurred, regarding, as it must be supposed, the temporary security from losses

an equivalent for it," and he should be dwelling to advise in their favor any relaxation of the rigor of the law.

We do not altogether agree with the Secretary of the Treasury in his view of this matter. The law by which a vessel once transferred from the American flag to a foreign one—except in specific cases mentioned—was forbidden to be re-registered in the United States, was passed as early as the year 1797. At that time our commerce was a mere oyster compared with what it now is. The voyages of our merchant ships were then confined to a relatively limited sphere, and the circumnavigation of the globe was scarcely ever attempted by our ships. Steam navigation was entirely unknown. The idea of the occurrence of a rebellion as prodigious as that through which the country has just passed could scarcely have been conceived. In short, the entire aspect of American commerce has since that time been completely revolutionized. What was then but an infant has now assumed gigantic proportions. It should be further remarked in this connection that it was no fault of American ship-owners that they transferred their flag. The exigencies of the case demanded it. The nation was unable to protect their vessels on the high seas. Their ships were at the mercy of a few but formidable cruisers of the enemy, and they obviated the difficulty by adopting, what military men do in emergencies, a species of strategy when they have not the strength to cope with a foe. Another point: These ship-owners did not transfer their flag to the enemy; they did not adopt the ensign of the adversary as a protection. On the contrary, they incurred a double penalty by being discovered sailing under false colors. Some sailed under the British flag, some under the French; others again, indiscriminately, under the flags of Russia, Spain, Portugal, Austria, the Netherlands, Norway, and almost every other known flag. Some vessels that hailed from Hong Kong, China, were built and owned in Boston; and one, recently lost on this coast, hailed from Liverpool, while she was owned and her insurance was paid here. In short, it is a reasonable view of the subject to excuse, if not to laud, the conduct of American ship-owners in this matter, for the reason that, while they protected their own interests at no expense to the government, they kept open our commerce with foreign countries and enabled us to receive, albeit under a quasi-foreign flag, materials of war—saltpetre, for one article—that helped us to carry on the conflict successfully.

It must be remembered, also, that all these vessels, although ostracized by the Secretary of the Treasury, are still owned by American citizens; that they still, in fact, comprise a portion of the American mercantile marine; that they are insured in American insurance companies, and that all losses are paid by those companies. In reality, our commerce has not been depreciated by the fact of these vessels adopting in an extremity another flag. The same amount of capital and the same number of vessels remain here. What the government may have lost by the non-receipt of tonnage duties from them, while under another flag, is a mere bagatelle when compared with what it may receive after our commerce is again fully restored to its late flourishing condition. If it be necessary to revise the navigation laws in order to restore them to the old flag, now that they again seek its protection, by all means do so; and thus we shall be carrying out, not only on land, but upon the seas, President Johnson's admirable reconstruction policy.

Annual Ball of the New York Fire Department.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC CROWDED WITH THE BEAUTY AND FASHION OF THE METROPOLIS.

The Academy of Music put on its gayest attire last night on occasion of the thirty-seventh annual ball of the New York Fire Department in aid of the fund for the widows and orphans of deceased members. The drawing and reception rooms and the entrance on living place were crowded from an early hour in the evening, and about nine o'clock every seat was taken, and a view of the great hall on the platform was secured. The decorations were of the richest and most elaborate description, yet harmonious in every respect. Clusters, baskets, bouquets, wreaths, festoons of flowers, streamers and flags were pendant in every part of the vast building. At its stage end the platform was occupied by an engine company and two hose companies were placed on the stage. The magnificent car of the Persian Darius would pale before their rich decorations. Immediately in front of them, and supported in mid-air, appeared a magnificent crowd of firemen in the following description:—

CHARITY.

New York Fire Department Fund.

Between these two lines was a large eagle, and under them the words, "Liberate, Avarice, Greed, and other vices of the heart." Over the eagle the inscription was inscribed: "The banner of the department." Gratitude's hands—string and pendants—furnished the ball for the occasion. At half past nine o'clock the ball opened with a grand march, which was led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again crowded with a magnificent display of light and color, and the grand march was again led by the band, and the platform was quickly taken possession of by a bewildering crowd of promenade and dancers. There were several splendid prizes, and the dancing was continued until midnight, when the platform was again